

PONTARDAWE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SENIOR SANITARY AND
SHOPS INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1950

NEATH :
W. WHITTINGTON LTD., WIND STREET

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Pontardawe Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the
Pontardawe Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950. The Report is compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, as given in Circular 112/50 (Wales).

Up to the 30th April, 1950, your Authority was without the services of a Medical Officer of Health and during that period it was your practice to call in Medical Officers to attend and advise on matters of a purely medical nature when such need arose. The Technical and Lay Staff of the Department were subject to added responsibility. It is felt that it is your wish as a Council that appreciation be extended to all concerned for the manner in which the Public Health Services were maintained during this period.

Having received the honour of being appointed your Medical Officer of Health, it became my pleasure to commence duties on the 1st May. The appointment is that of Medical Officer of Health to your Authority jointly with that of Assistant Medical Officer to the Glamorgan County Council, five sessions per week being devoted to the service of your Authority and six sessions per week being devoted to that of the County Council.

Since assuming my responsibility as your Medical Officer, I have made it my duty to ascertain the nature of the area, its geographic and topographic layout, the distribution of its population and densities in relation to health. Your area of some 35,000 acres is drained principally by the River Tawe, to which, with the exception of outlying areas to the North and West most of the surplus rainfall finds its way. Along the banks of the river and its tributaries your main industries have sprung up and with them the houses of the inhabitants, the workers and their families. Thus we find the Swansea Valley from Clydach to Ystalyfera on the main Tawe, with

Craigcefnparc, Rhydyfro, Cwmtwrch and Cwmllynfell on tributaries of the river. Here the population is dense. Over the watershed to the north lie Gwauncaegurwen and Brynamman, and away to the west, Garnswllt. In between, truly rural hinterland with isolated and sometimes lonely farms.

Thus we have in one area, under the care of one Authority, a heavily industrialised strip surrounded by a completely rural and agricultural expanse.

What of your problems? The main body of your population is concentrated into the valleys and in close proximity to the various industrial concerns. Here there is a degree of overcrowding. You are attempting to reduce this problem by a progressive building programme. Overcrowding breeds disease and mental as well as physical illhealth. It restricts the individual, inhibits family life and growth and breeds discontent and unhappiness. As your Medical Officer, in interviews with your housing applicants, I have seen and heard this misery.

New families are being formed daily. In years gone by these would have gladly made their homes on the hearths of their parents or with relations but now they call for houses of their own. Some of the reasons for this will be dealt with later in this report under the heading of Housing.

There are some very old properties in your area which have really outlived their day and the closure of such properties must add to your re-housing problem. You have been asked, due to the serious housing problem, to go easy on these closures, but the time does arise when such properties become a menace to the health of their inhabitants and can no longer be made fit for human habitation. In your area, due to the nature and contours of the ground many houses have had large cellars used as dwelling places. I am glad to have noted that you are aware of their unsuitability and have progressed towards their closure, at least as places of human habitation.

No one can deny the shortages of labour and materials. It is thus pleasing to note the progress in rendering wind and weatherproof many useful properties that has followed action by your technical staff of this Department. This action must be encouraged so that what we have may not be allowed to fall to decay through lack of maintenance.

By an active building programme, by the building of houses of the types needed in the areas where the need is greatest, by active conservation of existing houses can the problem be tackled. The attack on this problem is a positive step towards better living conditions and with these better health, for overcrowding, squalor, lack of air and ventilation are sworn enemies of health.

There are other problems. Your water supplies are in the main adequate. You have local supplies taken from springs and tanks in advantageous positions throughout the area. These are augmented by water taken from the Swansea County Borough's reservoir at Cray. Samples taken from your various sources of supply during the year yielded satisfactory results. By far the greater percentage of premises are now connected to one or other of the various supplies.

Considerable progress has been made during the year in providing a water carriage method of sewage disposal, particularly to the villages lying on the fringes of the main population centres. As you are aware, an increase in the use made of water carriage will naturally increase the work of disposal at the terminus of the system. In the Swansea Valley you have several disposal plants of varying ages. Some are fully efficient whilst others are beginning to feel the strain of age. It is, however, pleasing to note that your Engineer has active plans under consideration for developing the disposal system with particular reference to the valley.

In an area of Pontardawe's size with a population of some 32,000, undue significance cannot be attributed to minor fluctuations in the Vital Statistics Section for, as has been pointed out in previous reports, a few figures either way can materially change our final reading without being an accurate indication of any specific trend.

Again the greatest number of deaths from any single cause could be related to lesions of the heart and vascular system. Whether it is that our changing mode of life, and the tempo of our existence to-day, are contributory factors, and may have some bearing on this, remains to be ascertained.

No cases of food poisoning were reported by the General Practitioners in the area during the year. In an area of this type where so many partake in meals outside their own homes, constant vigilance by the sanitary officers of this Department is and must be maintained. An outbreak of food poisoning could easily occur, with its concomitant serious loss of man hours if laxity in supervision were allowed to follow a dearth of cases.

In concluding these introductory remarks I would like to recall a parable. It concerns five wise and five foolish virgins who had occasion to make a long journey. Now the wise virgins trimmed their lamps and saw to the oil, whereas the foolish virgins neglected these important details. There came a time when the light failed and they were not prepared. They had no oil in their lamps and the darkness closed in around them.

Disease can quickly throw a mantle of darkness over our land. Let us trim our lamps and see to the oil, that in the event of darkness our Public Health Department may be strong and virile, may lighten the darkness and guide our people along the road to Better Health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. H. J. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Chairman of the Public Health Committee—

Councillor D. J. Owen.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health Dr. D. H. J. Williams, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector Ieuan Lewis, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
(Meat and other Foods)

Additional Sanitary

Inspector G. A. Rees, M.S.I.A.

Do. do. D. J. Davies, M.S.I.A.

Administrative & Clerical:

Senior Assistant - - John Rogers.

H. Wynne Jones, A.R.San.I., A.I.Hsg. Mary E. Davies

Rufus Thomas

Gaynor Jones

Elwyn Lewis (H.M. Forces)

Cyril Edwards

SECTION A—STATISTICS

Area as given on Ordnance Maps	...	...	34,969 acres
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population	...		32,650
Rateable Value	...	...	£124,530
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£462
Birth Rate per R.G.'s birth figures:	14·18	per 1,000 estimated civilian population	

Live-birth rate per R.G.'s birth figures:

13·97 per 1,000 estimated
civilian population

Still-birth rate per R.G.'s still-birth figures : 15·11 per 1,000 live
and still births

Death-rate: 14·15 per 1,000 estimated civilian population.

Deaths from Maternal Causes (Heading No. 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 live and still births per Registrar- General's figures</i>
No. 30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	2·16

Death-rate of Infants under one
year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	35·09
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	33·63
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	100·00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	56
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
„ Gastro-Enteritis (under 2 years)	1

Report under the Factories Act, 1937

Supervision of all factories in the district was continued during the year and action taken where necessary to remedy defects.

Details of inspections made and action taken are given in the detailed schedule included in this Report.

ANNUAL REPORT UNDER THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	22	18	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	108	54	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ...		130	72	Nil	Nil	

2—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	11	11	—	—	Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—							
(a) Insufficient ...	9	1	1	—	1	Nil	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	1	1	—	1	Nil	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	60	13	13	—	2	Nil	60

PART VIII. OUTWORK. (SECTIONS 110 and 111).

No action became necessary under this Part of the Act in the course of the year.

VITAL STATISTICS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1950, CLASSIFIED BY AGES, CAUSES AND LOCALITIES.

Code No.	Causes of Death	Sex	Total	AGE GROUPS										PARISH OR WARD									
				Under 1 yr.	1-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65-74 years	Over 75 yrs.	Rhyn'd clyd	Gell.	Mawr	Ynis.	Cil.	B.&M.	God.	Allt.	Cwm.	Cae.		
1	Respiratory Tuberculosis	M	10	...	...	...	2	5	3	2	...	...	3	1	1	1	4	...	...		
2	Other Tuberculosis	F	10	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	2	...	...		
10	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...		
11	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	F	6	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...		
11	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	F	4	...	...	...	...	1	7	4	...	3	...	...	2	1	1	...	...		
12	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	M	9	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	F	4	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	...
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	10	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...		
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	17	...	...	...	...	1	5	4	...	4	3	1	2	...	1	1	...
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	F	14	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Diabetes	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Diabetes	M	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	
17	Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	F	37	...	...	...	...	1	6	19	12	7	3	...	7	5	6	1	...
17	Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	M	26	...	...	...	...	...	11	6	8	8	...	2	2	2	5	2	...
18	Coronary Disease, angina	F	37	...	...	...	...	1	14	17	5	3	...	...	4	2	2	1	...
18	Coronary Disease, angina	M	11	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	2	3	1	...	1	1	3	1	...
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	4	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...		
20	Other Heart Disease...	F	37	...	...	...	...	2	9	10	16	7	2	...	3	5	2	3	...
20	Other Heart Disease...	M	38	...	...	...	1	...	3	15	19	4	4	...	6	1	6	4	...	
21	Other Circulatory Disease	F	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	3	...	4	1	1	...	...		
21	Other Circulatory Disease	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	2	1	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	
23	Pneumonia	F	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	

[illegible]

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1950

	Estimated Population 1950	BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT MORTALITY		NEO NATAL MORTALITY	
		Number of Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths under 4 weeks	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
England and Wales	...	...	15.8	...	11.6	...	29.8	...	...
Administrative County	...	11,920	16.15	9,438	12.79	467	39.18	285	23.91
Urban Districts	...	8,870	16.51	7,030	13.09	359	40.47	210	23.68
Rural Districts	...	3,050	15.20	2,408	12.00	108	35.41	75	24.59
Health Division. Constituent Districts.									
Aberdare and Mountain Ash	41,050	548	13.35	625	15.23	18	32.85	11	20.07
Mountain Ash Urban	31,750	514	16.19	442	13.92	25	48.64	15	29.18
Caerphilly and Gelligaer	34,600	769	22.23	435	12.57	42	54.62	17	22.11
Gelligaer Urban	36,400	708	19.45	406	11.15	26	36.72	18	25.42
Mid-Glamorgan	14,070	236	16.77	136	9.67	9	38.14	6	25.42
Bridgend Urban	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Maesteg Urban	23,050	425	18.44	318	13.80	19	44.71	11	25.88
Ogmore & Garw Urban	22,620	353	15.61	313	13.84	16	45.33	10	28.33
Porthcawl Urban	9,454	125	13.22	122	12.90	3	24.00	3	24.00
Penybont Rural	34,350	543	15.81	398	11.59	24	44.20	15	27.62

Neath and District	Neath M.B. ...	...	32,230	507	15.73	437	13.56	14	27.61	7	13.81
	Neath Rural...	...	41,450	660	15.92	529	12.76	22	33.33	16	24.24
Pontypridd and Llantrisant	Pontypridd Urban		39,220	600	15.30	513	13.08	31	51.67	21	35.00
	Llantrisant Rural		25,510	476	18.66	322	12.62	16	33.61	11	23.11
Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg	Glyncoirwg Urban		9,156	179	19.55	88	9.61	13	72.63	10	55.87
	Port Talbot M.B.		44,050	739	16.78	516	11.71	25	33.83	14	18.94
South East Glamorgan	Barry M.B. ...	...	42,120	705	16.74	482	11.44	17	24.11	11	15.60
	Cardiff Rural	...	37,270	462	12.40	395	10.60	14	30.30	10	21.65
	Cowbridge M.B.	...	1,090	11	10.09	17	15.60	...	...	...	...
	Cowbridge Rural	...	18,060	289	16.00	137	7.59	10	34.60	5	17.30
	Penarth Urban	...	18,420	286	15.53	240	13.03	7	24.48	5	17.48
West Glamorgan	Gower Rural	...	11,400	164	14.39	165	14.47	6	36.59	6	36.59
	Llwchwr Urban	...	25,620	363	14.17	287	11.20	12	33.06	8	22.04
	Pontardawe Rural	...	32,650	456	13.97	462	14.15	16	35.09	12	26.32
Rhondda	Rhondda Urban	...	112,300	1,802	16.05	1,653	14.72	82	45.50	43	23.86

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Nett Deaths at Various Ages under One Year.

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Causes of Death	Sex	Under 24 Hours	Under 1 week and over 24 hours	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under one month	One month and under three months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under one year	Rhyndwy-clydach	Gellionen	Mawr	Ynysymond	Cillybebyll	B. & M.	Godrefgraig	Allt-y-grug	Cwmllynfell	Caegurwen
		$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$
Imperforate Anus	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Broncho Pneumonia	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Prolonged Labour	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	4	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Dentition ...	$\begin{pmatrix} M \\ F \end{pmatrix}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

[illegible]

ENGLAND AND WALES—VITAL STATISTICS, 1950

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1950. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000–50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
		<i>Rates per 1,000</i>	<i>Home Population</i>	
		17.6	16.7	
Births—				
Live births	15.8			17.8
Still births	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36
Deaths—				
All causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39
Influenza	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48

Notifications (corrected)—									
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection									
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03	0.02	0.03
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.50	1.61	1.23
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.60	3.15	3.21
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.03
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.17	0.16	0.17
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.39	8.36	6.57
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis) Paralytic									
	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.70	0.61	0.50
	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.13	0.11	0.08
Non-Paralytic									
Foodpoisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.06	0.05
	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.17	0.14	0.25
Deaths—									
All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.8 (a)	<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i> 33.8 29.4	26.3
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.9	1.6	1.0
Notifications (corrected)—									
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Rates</i> 5.81	<i>per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</i> 7.43 4.33	6.03

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

<i>International List No. and Cause</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</i>	<i>Rates per million Women aged 15-44</i>
651. Abortion with Sepsis	0.09	7
650, 652. Other abortion	0.05	4
640-649, 670-679. Complication of Preg- nancy and Delivery	0.54	-
681. Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium	0.03	-
680, 682-689. Other complications of the puerperium	0.15	-

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE, 1950

Cause	Male	Female	R'Clydach	Gell.	Mawr	Ynis.	Cil.	B. & M.	God.	Allt.	Cwm.	Cae.
Fractured Skull after fall ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Fractured Skull and Spine after fall	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fractured Femur following fall	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Industrial	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Drowning	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Flying Accident	6	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	1	-	-
TOTALS	14	3	1	1	-	-	5	1	2	5	1	1

SUICIDE, 1950

Cause	Male	Female	R'Clydach	Gell.	Mawr	Ynis.	Cil.	B. & M.	God.	Allt.	Cwm.	Cae.
Hanging	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Drowning	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS, 1950

	Male	Female	R'Clydach	Gell.	Mawr	Ynis.	Cil.	B. & M.	God.	Allt.	Cwm.	Cae.
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—

DEATHS IN VARIOUS MONTHS, 1950

Month	Males	Females	Total
JANUARY	20	20	40
FEBRUARY	26	16	42
MARCH	29	23	52
APRIL	29	10	39
MAY	29	24	53
JUNE	15	14	29
JULY	18	12	30
AUGUST	18	13	31
SEPTEMBER	15	14	29
OCTOBER	21	10	31
NOVEMBER	23	12	35
DECEMBER	33	18	51
TOTALS ...	276	186	462

SECTION B. — GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

As in previous years your Authority transmits pathological specimens to the City and County Laboratory, Cardiff, for investigation and report. In the event of urgency specimens are also submitted to the Beck Laboratory, Swansea.

During the year certain informal tests and investigations were also made on milk and other matters in the small Laboratory attached to the Public Health Department at Ynisderw House.

Samples taken :

WATER :

Bacteriological Examinations	17
Chemical Analyses	13

MILK :

Bacteriological Examinations	34
-------------------------------------	----

ICECREAM :

Bacteriological Examinations	59
Chemical Analyses	59

SEWAGE :

Sewage Analyses	15
Effluent Analyses	15

(b) Welfare Services, Hospital and Ambulance Services.

All hospitals in the area continue to be administered by the Glantawe Hospital Management Committee whilst the welfare and ambulance services are administered by the Glamorgan County Council.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Your Authority, by arrangement with the Swansea Corporation, draws its main supply of water from the Cray Reservoir, this source being supplemented by tanks and springs maintained throughout the area by the Council's Engineering and Water Department.

(1) The water supplied from the various sources to the District's inhabitants is such as to give an adequate supply and is generally satisfactory in (a) quality and (b) quantity.

(2) Chemical analyses of various supplies of water were obtained in 13 instances, whilst 17 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Such samples were taken from raw water and from water going into supply after treatment. Results on the whole were satisfactory.

(3) Contamination by lead was not found to occur in any of the samples taken for chemical analysis.

(4) The vast majority of houses and other properties situated within the district are connected to one or other of the Council's water supplies.

(5) The co-operation of the Council's Engineer has continued to be forthcoming and prompt, where suspicion of any form of contamination has been reported.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

On occasions during the year, the Council's Sub-Committee instituted for the purpose of detecting possible sources of pollution, carried out inspections throughout the District. Improvement in the nature of effluents discharged into the rivers has followed the representations and suggestions made to various industrial concerns by your officers. Joint meetings with neighbouring Authorities have also been held during the year with a view to correlating action in the combined areas as it is appreciated that combined action can and will be more effective where rivers and streams are shared. It is to be hoped that the improvement noted during the year will continue to be maintained.

Disinfestation.

(a) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of (1) Council Houses	(1)	Infested	8
	(2)	Disinfested	8
Number of (2) other Houses	(1)	Infested	38
	(2)	Disinfested	38

(b) METHODS EMPLOYED FOR DISINFESTING HOUSES.

The careful spraying with insecticide after stripping of wall paper and defective woodwork has continued to be effective. Where articles of furniture were found to be affected, spraying with insecticide was also found effective in eradication of the infestation.

The new Disinfestation Centre at Ynisderw House came into operation during the year and all articles of clothing, bedding and such matters are now treated at this centre.

Sewage and Sewage Effluent.

From time to time reports on the analysis of samples of sewage and sewage effluent are received from the County Authority. Whilst no marked variation from the results of previous years can be demonstrated and although they show a sewage of moderate strength and an effluent fairly efficiently purified, the results cannot be considered to be entirely satisfactory.

Development of Sewerage Schemes.

Good progress has been made during the year in the Schemes for bringing modern methods of sewage disposal to the outlying villages. This, combined with the steadily increasing numbers of new houses being connected to various sewers, is constantly increasing the load at the sewage disposal points. It should also be borne in mind that some of these disposal points are ageing. Serious consideration will therefore be needed to further development of the disposal arrangements if overloading, with consequent loss of efficiency is to be avoided.

The particulars of new works completed or in course of construction are appended below :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Description of Works</i>	<i>Progress during 1950</i>
Llanguicke	Rhiwfawr Privy Conversion Scheme Rhydyfro Sewerage Scheme	Completed Under Construction
Cilybebyll	Rhos Sewerage Scheme	Under Construction
Mawr ...	Garnswllt Privy Conversion Scheme	Completed

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

House Inspection.

With a view to the abatement of overcrowding and nuisances arising from sanitary defects, routine and special inspections were undertaken by the Inspectorate in accordance with the requirements of the Housing Act, 1936. Full details of these inspections and action taken will be found in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's section of this Report.

I have also made it my practice to make visits to houses where health problems in relation to overcrowding, structural defects, nuisances and such matters have so indicated, and I have found that this action has been a considerable asset in an accurate ascertainment of the circumstances obtaining and the problems of health in relation to housing that face the Authority.

Re-Housing Progress.

During the year 1950, your Authority succeeded in re-housing 123 families. This is an improvement on the figure for 1949 when your Authority re-housed 75 families.

As it is felt that inadequate housing space, overcrowding and allied evils are detrimental to general health, the sustained effort to provide proper housing accommodation should be maintained. In this way, as has been previously suggested, a considerable contribution is made to the cause of preventive medicine.

Allocation of the Council's Houses under the Points Scheme.

Modelled on recommendations from the Ministry and applied to meet the needs of your area, the Points Scheme under which allocations of Council Houses are made to applicants, serves as a clear and true guide of the respective need of applicants.

The scheme since its inception has been utilised in the re-housing of 421 families, and perusal of the Schedules included in this Report will show the varied types of cases catered for.

Housing Applicants.

It has been reported above that 123 families were re-housed during the year, At the same time fresh applications continue to be made and it will be seen that the waiting list has now increased to 1,273, the number obtaining at the end of 1950. This, I believe, is partly a reflection of the times. New families are constantly being formed and there is an ever-increasing desire for a separate home amongst those who in years gone by might have been glad, through necessity and other factors, to stay with and share rental and other problems with parents. This is borne out in the analysis below which shows a heavy preponderance of applicants without separate homes over those who are in separate homes.

ANALYSIS OF WAITING LIST AT END OF 1950.

<i>Ward/Parish</i>	<i>Total Applicants</i>	<i>Applicants who are</i>		<i>Applicants who are</i>	
		<i>Without separate homes</i>	<i>With separate homes but overcrowded</i>	<i>Miners</i>	<i>Agricultural Workers</i>
Clydach	245	177	21	65	2
Gellionen	91	46	17	17	—
Mawr	47	29	7	31	—
Ynisymond	24	11	1	7	—
Cilybebyll	142	63	19	19	1
Blaenegel and Mawr ...	201	117	15	36	—
Godrergraig	79	38	9	40	—
Alltygrug	173	106	34	87	—
Cwmllynfell	100	51	8	61	—
Caegurwen	171	127	12	103	—
TOTALS	1,273	765	143	466	3

Ward or Parish of Residence	OCCUPATIONS				Total Families Re- housed	CONDITION OF APPLICANTS						Applicants who were		Notes
	Mines	Agriculture	Steel	Tin	Others	Disabled Ex-Service Men	Other Ex-Service Men	T.B. Cases	Cases of Other Illness	Living in Unfit Houses		Living in Apts.	Living in Separate Homes	
Clydach ..	8	..	..	4	12	24	..	9	3	2	..	22	2	1 Police Officer
Gellionen ..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	1 Re-housed in Clydach
Mawr ..	14	..	..	..	3	17	..	3	..	..	..	9	8	
Ynisymond..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	
Cilybebyll ..	2	1	3	1	5	12	1	6	2	1	..	10	2	
Blaenegel & Mawr	7	..	2	3	14	26	..	6	3	8	..	17	9	1 Keyworker
Godregraig ..	2	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	1	1	..	3	..	
Alltygrug ..	9	..	..	..	8	17	1	4	3	1	1	10	7	
Cwmllynfell ..	5	..	..	..	3	8	..	2	1	1	1	5	3	
Caegurwen ..	8	..	..	1	4	13	..	2	1	2	1	10	3	
TOTALS ..	57	1	5	10	50	123	2	33	14	17	7	88	35	

ANALYSIS OF APPLICANTS RE-HOUSED SUMMARY TO DATE—END OF 1950.

Ward or Parish of Residence	OCCUPATIONS					Total Families Re- housed	CONDITION OF APPLICANTS							Applicants who were		Notes
	Mines	Agriculture	Steel	Tin	Others		Disabled Ex-Service Men	Other Ex-Service Men	T.B. Cases	Cases of Other Illness	Living in Unfit Houses		All other Cases	Liv- ing in Apts.	Living in Separate Homes	
											Subject to Action under Housing Act	Subject to Informal Action				
Clydach ..	47	..	8	7	69	131	4	38	8	16	2	1	62	116	15	
Gellionen ..	2	..	5	4	10	21	..	4	3	3	2	..	9	11	10	
Mawr ..	15	..	..	..	5	20	..	3	1	1	..	..	15	11	9	
Ynisymond..	3	1	..	..	7	11	..	1	..	4	..	..	6	5	6	
Cilybebyll ..	4	1	4	2	13	24	1	8	7	2	1	..	5	16	8	
Blaenegel & Mawr	14	..	11	9	37	71	..	19	12	13	1	1	25	52	19	
Godrergraig ..	21	..	..	2	12	35	1	5	5	5	1	1	17	25	10	
Alltygrug ..	17	..	..	2	12	31	1	6	9	4	3	1	7	21	10	
Cwmllynfell ..	7	..	..	..	6	13	..	2	1	1	2	1	6	8	5	
Caegurwen ..	39	..	1	3	21	64	1	12	9	11	1	1	29	53	11	
TOTALS ..	169	2	29	29	192	421	8	98	55	60	13	6	181	318	103	

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

SUMMARY OF REGISTRATIONS UNDER THE MILK REGULATIONS.

<i>Purpose for which Registered</i>	<i>Parish of</i>					<i>Sources from Outside Area</i>	<i>Total Regis- tered</i>
	<i>Rhyndwy- clydach</i>	<i>Llan- guicke</i>	<i>Cily- bebyll</i>	<i>Ynisy- mond</i>	<i>Mawr</i>		
Distributors ...	4	11	1	...	1	3	20
Dairies ...	5	11	1	...	1	...	18
Dealers—Accred- ited Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dealers—Tuber- culin Tested Milk	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Dealers—Pasteur- ised Milk	4	14	2	1	2	...	23
Dealers—Sterilised Milk	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences—All Milks	...	...	...	...	...	13	13
Total Registrations	14	36	5	1	4	16	76

Milk Supply.

The area receives its milk supply from three sources—
(a) Farms producing within the area; (b) Farms producing outside and retailing within the area; (c) Bulk suppliers who treat milk outside but retail within the area. Your officers have been in close touch with the Ministry of Agriculture officers responsible for cleanliness during farm production. This liaison work is essential as the new organisation is in a preliminary stage and has to cover a wide area. Details of the present state of suppliers of milk analysed according to Ward and type of milk supplied are given above. The regulations with respect to these persons are implemented by your officers in this Department.

Milk Samples.

The following table has been included so that the standard of the Area's milk supply can be appreciated and it gives an analysis of the results of tests made at the various laboratories of the samples submitted.

<i>Group</i>	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>No. Satis- factory</i>	<i>No. Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>% Satis- factory</i>
TOTAL TAKEN—ALL CLASSES	50	50	Nil	100%
City and County Laboratory, Cardiff, Bacteriological Examination	34	34	Nil	100%
Samples taken by Ministry of Agriculture Officers and tested at Swansea Lab- oratory :-Methylene Blue Test ...	16	16	Nil	100%

SECTION F. — PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR EACH MONTH, 1950

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	1	...	2	...	2	2	...	1	...	4	1	13	
Pneumonia	7	...	5	5	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	3	25
Measles	15	48	22	30	53	29	45	4	4	1	...	251	
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	15	8	27
Erysipelas	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5	2	1	...	13
TOTALS	8	16	53	31	30	58	33	52	10	8	21	12	332

LIST OF SCARLET FEVER CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1950

WARD OR PARISH

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Clydach</i>	<i>Gelli-onen</i>	<i>Mawr</i>	<i>Ynysymond</i>	<i>Cilybebyll</i>	<i>Blaenegel and Mawr</i>	<i>Godrer-graig</i>	<i>Allt-y-grug</i>	<i>Cwmlllyn-fell</i>	<i>Caegur-wen</i>
0—1 year	—	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—2 "	—	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—3 "	—	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—3 "	—	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3—4 "	1	M	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
3—4 "	—	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4—5 "	2	M	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
4—5 "	—	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 "	1	M	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5—10 "	6	F	1	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	...	...
10—15 "	—	M	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—15 "	1	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—25 "	—	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—25 "	—	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 "	—	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 "	—	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—65 "	—	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—65 "	—	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over	—	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over	—	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Age unknown	1	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Age unknown	1	F	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	13		2	...	...	1	2	6	1	1	...	...

Males	...	...	4
Females	...	...	9
			<u>13</u>

TUBERCULOSIS

AGES	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1 year ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
1— 4 years ...	1	1	1	4	...	...	...	...
5—14 „ ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—24 „ ...	5	3	...	...	...	2	...	...
25—34 „ ...	7	7	...	1	1	4	...	1
35—44 „ ...	4	2	1	...	4	2	...	...
45—54 „ ...	5	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
55—64 „ ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
65 and upwards	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	27	14	3	6	10	10	1	2

Rate of Incidence of New Cases : 1·54 per 1,000 civilian population

Death Rate from this Disease : 0·71 per 1,000 civilian population

NUMBER OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE YEAR

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	TOTAL
137	140	277	48	55	103	380

Rate of Incidence : 11·51 per 1,000 civilian population.

NUMBER OF CASES ON TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

AT THE END OF THE YEAR

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
M	F	TOTAL	M	F	TOTAL	TOTAL
140	134	274	42	48	90	364

Rate of Incidence : 11.20 per 1,000 civilian population.

Tuberculosis.

During the year 1949 your Authority was without the services of a Medical Officer of Health. It became my privilege during 1950 to prepare the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1949 and in that report consideration at length was given to Tuberculosis. The remarks made at that time still apply. At this juncture, however, I feel that some further comments are indicated.

The diagnosis of the disease, the forms of treatment available and some of the means of prevention were indicated and discussed in the last Report.

During 1950, there has been a steady increase in the supply of milk, heat treated and sterilised, with a corresponding decrease in the supply of raw and ungraded milk. As is well known, milk can be a vehicle for the transmission of tuberculosis, particularly of the non-respiratory type. The progress therefore towards providing completely safe milk must be welcomed and it is to be hoped that this will be reflected in the figures and on the Registers of Tuberculosis held by your Authority.

Consideration has been given to the alleviation of overcrowding, to the improvement of environment, and to the ensurance of clean food and drink. There is one other action that calls for comment—that of spitting.

The tubercle bacillus is a strong and hardy germ and can withstand adverse conditions, including drying. By tuberculous people indiscriminately spitting on the highways and pavements, on grass verges and in public places, millions of tubercle bacilli are being released every day in our area. The spit dries in the air and sun and the germs are then whisked about by every breeze. To live we have to breathe and in breathing we run the risk of inhaling these tubercle bacilli. Thus it must be seen that spitting is not only unhygienic—dirty—it is also dangerous.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

It will be noted that 13 cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified during the year, all of which were admitted to hospital for treatment. All cases occurred during the summer months and it was noted that with the exception of one household, not more than one case was notified from any one spot, the incidence being sporadic and confined largely to the main population centres. Every effort was made by your officers, by advice, and by disinfection of rooms, clothing and bedding, to minimise the risk of spread of infection and I prepared a notice which was posted in public places giving general advice on the control of spread of infection. The possible dangers from droplet infection, congregation in overcrowded public places, over-exhaustion, etc., were pointed out. These measures are naturally of a general nature and, if implemented, can and will play an important role in the reduction of infectious disease, whatever its nature.

Whooping Cough.

This is an infectious disease which, it is felt, is treated somewhat lightly in your area. There is a tendency to allow children with established whooping cough to play and associate with their little friends, with little regard for the first principle of control of spread of infection—isolation. To control and reduce the incidence of whooping cough, the child suffering from the disease should be isolated. He should not be allowed out to play with his friends. Whooping cough is a condition affecting the child's lungs and should be treated with great respect. There are serious and life-long complications which can result from this disease, ranging from acute pneumonia to chronic recurrent bronchitis, added to which there may be serious changes in the very structure of the lungs. It is our duty as officers, Members of the Council, and as citizens of the area, to enlighten parents and those into whose care children may be entrusted, of the need for adequate care of those suffering from the condition and of the dangers of careless spread of the infection.

CANCER DEATHS—1950

Total	Site	Sex	Age Groups					Ward or Parish										
			2-5	5-20	20-25	25-45	45-65	65+	Clydach	Gelli-onen	Mawr	Ynismynd	Cilybebyll	Blaenegel and Mawr	Godregraig	Alltygrug	Cwmllynfell	Cae-gurwen
1	Blood—Acute Leukaemia	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Lymphatic Glands, Hodgkins Disease	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Left Antrum	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
2	Bronchus	F	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Lungs ...	F	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
1	Tongue	M	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
1	Oesophagus	F	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5	Stomach	M	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	1
4	Alimentary Tract	F	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
1	Liver ...	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Gall Bladder	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	Pancreas	M	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2	Caecum...	F	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1		M	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

RAINFALL IN 1950-AT WERN HOUSE, YSTALYFERA

<i>Month</i>	<i>Total Depth</i>	<i>Greatest fall in 24 hours</i>		<i>Notes</i>
		INCHES	DATE	
January	2·97	6th	·50	·01 or more was recorded in 228 days during the year. On 209 days ·04 or more was recorded.
February	10·52	20th	1·74	
March	4·83	3rd	·94	
April	5·63	17th	·57	
May	2·29	24th	1·09	
June	4·30	23rd	·69	
July	7·48	16th	1·48	
August	13·46	21st	1·91	
September ...	13·54	7th	1·76	
October	5·17	15th	·81	
November ...	8·83	28th	1·67	
December ...	4·90	10th	1·03	
TOTALS	83·92			

Rain Gauge.

Diameter of Funnel—5 inches.

Height of top—Above ground, 1 foot 6 inches.

Above Sea Level, 240 feet.

We are again indebted to Miss Lily Williams, of Wern House, Ystalyfera, for the figures given in this table, and it is therefore desired to take advantage of this occasion to thank her for continuing to submit these records to the Department from year to year.

SENIOR SANITARY AND SHOPS' INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1950

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The year has been marked by the powers made available through new legislation. The Shops Act, 1950, and the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1950, have both their operative dates within the year, while in the field of food control the new byelaws and the 1949 milk legislation have been available for a full year's operation.

Changes in the refuse collection organisation have been made possible by the delivery of a new vehicle and the institution of a new area of collection.

Efforts have been made to improve sanitary facilities at pitheads and to supervise colliery canteens from a hygienic standpoint.

The repair of existing houses has again taken up a considerable part of the time of your inspectorate. It is pleasing to record that the repairs required were effected without recourse to legal proceedings.

As in previous years these introductory paragraphs indicate the general fields of work during the year. Details of that work are set out in the appropriate sections.

PART I.—GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH.

Inspections for the Year 1950.

(a) All types of premises under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	3,284
(b) Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	129
(c) Farms, Cowsheds and Dairies, Milkshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	47
(d) Factories and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	98
(e) Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	108
(f) Miscellaneous (including Food Stores and Butchers' Shops)	...	...	...	...	...	485
(g) Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	332
(h) Inspections under Shops Acts, 1912-38	...	...	...	...	...	421
(i) Inspections of Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	104

REFUSE COLLECTION, 1950.

District No.	ORGANISATION				VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL			
	Area Serviced	No. of Houses Serviced	Frequency of Collection	Disposal Points	Make of Vehicle	Type and Body	Date of First Registration	No. of Personnel
1	CLYDACH All Clydach to Mond Works. Craigcefnparc.	1,699	Main roads daily, Monday to Friday. Business Premises daily, including Saturdays. Other roads 3 times per week.	(a) Rhyddwen, Craigcefnparc. (b) Penybanc Tip	Ford	2/3 ton 7 cu. yard all steel covered body	6/6/46	3
2	ALLTWEN AND CLYDACH. Clydach from Mond to Trebanos Cross. Alltwen, Glais.	1,540	Do.	Do.	Bedford	2/3 ton 7 cu. yard all steel covered body	29/6/50	3
3	PONTARDAWE. Trebanos Cross to Pontardawe Cross. Pontardawe Cross to Jubilee Stores, Godrergraig. Rhydyfro. All Pontardawe.	1,752	Do.	(a) Bryn Tip, Ynis-meudwy. (b) Carreg-yr-Afon Tip, Ystalyfera	Bedford	2/3 ton 7 cu. yard all steel covered body	20/4/48	3
4	YSTALYFERA Including Godrergraig to Jubilee Stores, Cwmtwrch.	1,615	Do.	(a) Carreg-yr-Afon Tip. (b) Alltygrug	Bedford	2/3 ton 5 cu. yard all steel covered body	26/3/46	3
5	GWAUNCAEGURWEN. Whole of the Caegurwen Ward.	1,537	Do.	(a) Brynamman (b) Gorsgoch T.	Bedford	2/3 ton 7 cu. yard all steel covered body	20/10/46	3
General Replacement	All areas as required during emergencies				Bedford	5 ton open	17/8/42	

Public Cleansing.

(a) REFUSE COLLECTION.

(i) DIRECT LABOUR COLLECTION.

This authority's direct labour service has since its inception nearly 20 years ago been characterised by two factors, viz. :—

(a) Mechanisation.

(b) Dustless loading bodies.

These two factors were maintained throughout the war years when replacements were difficult. The post war years have seen a complete renewal of the regular fleet and all vehicles in daily use are of modern design.

EXTENSION OF DIRECT LABOUR AREA.

The Annual Report of 1949 indicated a primary step in the reorganisation of the lorry areas. The second and major step, that of reorganising both areas of work and frequency of collection, was dependent upon the delivery of a new vehicle and was accomplished in the year under review.

The new vehicle was delivered in June, 1950, and the reorganisation effected later in the year. This consisted of :

(a) Elimination of horse and cart contract collection in the Cilybebyll and Ynysymond Wards and the Craigcefnparc part of the Mawr Ward, and its replacement by direct labour motorised collection.

(b) Redistribution of work involving the four existing districts and the new district. The work of collection is now more uniformly distributed. While the system has to date worked satisfactorily, minor adjustments in the boundaries may have to be made in the light of further experience.

(c) Achievement of uniform frequency of collection in all areas. The new collection system provides a daily collection for all premises on main roads and a thrice weekly collection for all other premises.

The new arrangements have proceeded smoothly and observations to date indicate that the new service is satisfactory and adequate. The successful working of the new system is in no small measure due to the co-operation of the refuse personnel. Their adequate discharge of duties in general amid the variable climatic conditions of these valleys is worthy of note.

PROVISION OF DUSTBINS.

Your Council has approved the principle of the municipal dustbin system but has deferred implementation until the scheme will be more economic to operate than at present.

The provision of dustbins from the rate fund, or provision and recovery of 5/- per annum in respect of each premises must be considered in relation to the economic life of a bin.

(ii) REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Disposal points are indicated in the preceding table. It will be necessary in the near future to establish a disposal site within the newly formed direct labour area in order to avoid excessive travelling for disposal purposes.

Three full-time tip attendants are employed for disposal duties. Experience indicates that disposal is in this area most economically effected by manual attention and mechanical finishing.

Carreg-yr-afon Park is an indication of how refuse disposal can effect the reclamation of land otherwise unusable. The extensive area now in course of being levelled will provide a welcome addition to the playing field facilities of Godrergraig.

The Rhyddwen, Craigcefnparc, is now the main disposal site for refuse collected south of Pontardawe town. Levelling operations at this site are being carried out at the request of the Mawr Parish Council.

Concern has been expressed both by your Council and its officers, due to the fact that children play at these disposal sites even when fenced.

Notices have been inserted in the Press and the Council's magazine, "Ein Cynghor," asking parents to restrain children from this practice and underlining the dangers to health.

(iii) CONTRACTS.

Direct labour collection has during the year eliminated contract collection at Alltwen and Rhos, Fforestgoch, Ynysymond, Craigcefnparc and Rhydypany. Contractors are still employed at Velindre, Garnswllt, Cwmllynfell and Rhiwfawr.

(iv) SALVAGE.

The collection of salvage which ceased in October, 1949, was eliminated as a matter requiring statistical comment when tenancy of the salvage depot was terminated early in 1950. The area of this authority is too extensive and the business premises yield too small for a salvage collection to produce a profit. It is hoped that any future reintroduction of the Direction will be on an agency rather than a local profit and loss basis.

(b) NIGHT SOIL REMOVAL.

This work is carried out by Contractors in the following areas :—

<i>Area</i>				<i>No. of Pails Removed during year 1950</i>
Cilybebyll	...	...	...	10,370
Rhydyfro	...	...	...	6,534
Rhiwfawr	...	...	...	2,822
Ynysymond	...	...	...	4,578
Craigcefnparc	...	...	...	13,219
				<hr/> 37,523 <hr/>

The reduction in the number of pails collected at Rhiwfawr is an indication that the sewerage system commenced to operate during part of the year. The schemes now under construction at Rhydyfro and Cilybebyll will eventually result in the elimination of pail collection in these areas.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

Premises coming within the above Acts have been dealt with under the provisions applicable to this Authority.

An opportunity arose during the year to finalise water supply, sanitary accommodation and fire escape provisions in relation to a proposed factory prior to erection. This was welcomed as the matters concerned were more easily dealt with prior to construction.

Collieries received mention in the 1949 Report from the aspect of Rodent Infestation. Reference is now made to these undertakings from the point of view of the sanitary facilities provided at pitheads.

Collieries are in the main located outside the main centres of population. While this is advantageous where atmospheric pollution is concerned, it results in many cases in an absence of sewerage facilities and main water supply. The resulting sanitary accommodation is often rudimentary and consists of a deep trench latrine. Such a construction, normally a health hazard, is even more so when the pit canteen is in close proximity.

Efforts have been made during the year to eliminate the worst cases and close liaison with the authority responsible for such undertakings has been established and maintained. At the invitation of the National Coal Board Area Estates Officer a small sewage disposal plant was designed suitable

for pithead use. This has been approved and installation to this specification has commenced at the East Pit, Gwauncaegurwen. It is intended to give further attention to this matter during the coming year for it is felt that the standard of sanitary facilities at collieries should not in any respect fall short of those normally provided for undertakings in other fields of industry.

Rodent Destruction.

The above service was fully maintained during 1950 and the work carried out is reviewed and classified according to the type of premises involved.

(a) PRIVATE PREMISES.

Complaints from all sources were dealt with and advice given to householders in order to prevent recurrence. Infestations were in the main of minor degree and of recent occurrence. These premises were treated without charge to the occupier.

(b) BUSINESS PREMISES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

A number of business premises were treated and the occupiers charged on a basis of total cost *plus* 10% administrative charge. This scale of charges is approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who pay 50% of all rodent destruction costs after business premises costs have been deducted.

The advice and assistance of the South Wales Division, Ministry of Agriculture, was sought regarding one infestation under this category and a treatment was undertaken jointly with the Ministry's officers. It is desired to acknowledge the Division's prompt assistance in this and other matters connected with this work.

(c) SEWERS.

Two treatments are normally undertaken in every year in the area. During 1950, however, one only was carried out as the half-yearly treatment dates were with Ministry approval changed from October and March to July and January. This enables both treatments to be effected within one financial year. The previous arrangement caused grant claim difficulty, due to the March treatment sometimes continuing into the next financial year.

(d) LOCAL AUTHORITY PREMISES.

Refuse tips and other Local Authority premises were kept under supervision and treated as necessary.

RODENT DESTRUCTION, 1950

Ward / Parish	Premises treated, including Refuse Tips, Brooks, River banks					Sewer Baiting		Combined Figures		
	No. Treated	No. of Baiting Points	No. of Baits Laid	Esti- mated Kill	No. of Manholes Treated	No. of Baits Laid	Total Premises and Manholes Treated	Total No. of Baiting Points	Total Baits Laid	
Clydach ...	24	291	1,164	279	147	441	171	438	1,605	
Gellionen ...	6	82	328	108	88	264	94	170	592	
Mawr ...	...	...	...	...	Joint treatment with Clydach	...	...	...	...
Ynisymond ...	11	133	532	131	No sewer available	...	11	133	532	
Cilybebyll ...	14	166	664	148	...	...	14	166	664	
Blaenegel and Mawr ...	28	485	1,940	752	130	390	158	615	2,330	
Godrergraig ...	22	254	1,016	279	42	126	64	296	1,142	
Alltygrug ...	24	342	1,368	318	Joint treat- ment with All tygrug Ward	366	146	464	1,734	
Cwmllynfell ...	6	96	384	101	...	...	6	96	384	
Caegurwen ...	15	257	1,028	295	204	612	219	461	1,640	
TOTALS ...	150	2,106	8,424	2,411	733	2,199	883	2,839	10,623	

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1950.

This Act came into force in March, 1950. The onus of notifying an infestation now falls upon the occupier. The Act also widens the scope of treatment, and indicates that surveys should be made to eradicate new sources of infestation before they intensify and require protracted treatment. The authority at present employs one operative and this is at present considered adequate by the Ministry who have the right to review the position in the light of future needs.

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (THRESHING AND DISMANTLING OF RICKS) REGULATIONS, 1950.

This Order which came into force in October, 1950, makes it an offence to dismantle and thresh a rick without adequate precautions to prevent the spread of rats. This Order fulfils the indication given in this section of the 1949 Report regarding future activity in the rural part of our area.

Housing—Repair, Overcrowding and Demolition.

(a) REPAIR

When Annual Reports were being compiled during the war years the difficulties then encountered by your Inspectorate in obtaining repairs to property were accepted in the light of the emergency then prevailing. The shortage of materials and of skilled labour was such that much effort had to be expended to obtain little result. There was then, however, a hope that the cessation of hostilities would bring that shortage to an end and that the work of repair to domestic premises that had accumulated during the war years would be commenced and speedily completed.

While the position has improved somewhat the demands of new houses, industrial premises, schools and other buildings essential to the community have made their demand upon labour and materials and are given undeniable priority of construction. Building costs too, have risen steeply in comparison with the 1939 period. This has resulted in further disinclining owners of property to comply with the repair requirements issued by the Health Department.

The remarks made in this section of the Report of 1949 regarding financial hardship still apply, but as costs continue to rise and rental remains static a time must eventually arise when the economics of each particular case will have to be taken into account. It is not intended in this Report to comment as to whether the solution will lie in local authority purchase of such property under the Housing Act, or alternatively by revision of the Rent Restrictions Acts. It is merely desired to indicate the increasing difficulties that face your officers in their endeavours to improve the condition of existing houses.

RENT RESTRICTIONS ACTS, 1923-42.

Eleven applications were received during the year for certificates of disrepair under the above Acts. Nine applications were granted and two applications were refused.

(b) OVERCROWDING.

This factor must of necessity remain a recurring feature of these Reports for sometime to come. The figures given below indicate that the number of cases being relieved is in excess of the new cases ascertained, and this is encouraging. The annual reduction, however, is small and shows that some years of endeavour will be required if the problem is to be solved.

It has not been necessary during the year to take action as indicated in Circular 17/49 (Wales) for increasing the permitted number under the Housing Act, 1936.

It becomes increasingly obvious that the bad planning of some of the older type of houses greatly intensifies the problems that arise from overcrowding. This applies whether the house is statutorily overcrowded or occupied by numbers in excess of comfort level, and it is frequently found that houses which on paper have the same permitted number and are occupied by similar types of persons reveal startlingly different conditions when actually inspected.

(c) DEMOLITION AND CLOSURE.

Action was taken during the year under the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of three premises. A Closing Order was made in respect of a basement in the Clydach Ward, an undertaking was accepted in respect of a basement in the Caegurwen Ward and a temporary structure in the Blaenegel and Mawr Ward was closed, an undertaking being accepted from the owners that the premises would not at any future time be used for human

habitation. The basement in the Caegurwen Ward is now occupied, repairs and improvements to the satisfaction of the Council having been completed.

Previous reports have indicated that over 300 occupied houses in the area are unfit for human habitation. The problem of their demolition and the re-housing of the occupants however must be weighed against that of the families living in overcrowded conditions and those cases indicated by the Medical Officer of Health where health factors are involved. It is hoped that the coming year, 1951, will enable more extensive action under this section and result in the closure and demolition of the defective properties concerned.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	1,121
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,963
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) (above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	1,121
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,602
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil since completion of Survey
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	1,121

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	197
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a) by Owners (in process of completion) ...	Nil	
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners (in process of completion)	Nil	
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	352	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	104	
(a) by Owners	104	
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil	
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil	
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2	
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	1	

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	324
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	629
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	2,981
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	28

(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	96
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	458
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

Joint County Rural Housing Committee.

This Committee has met regularly during the year. The Survey undertaken at its inception has now been completed in all areas and the Committee will, it is hoped, now be able to give further attention to the items contained in the original terms of reference.

Each passing year finds this section of the Report drawing attention to the difficulties which face officers engaged in improving housing conditions. These difficulties are general and the Joint County Rural Housing Committee has an essential function to perform in the pooling of knowledge on the subject.

Common Lodging Houses.

One Common Lodging House only remains in the area and this was registered during the year as a satisfactory premises. The occupants are permanent residents and there is little if any casual use.

Atmospheric and River Pollution.

(a) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In an industrial valley such as this where works occupy the valley floor and habitations rise to the slopes, the problem of smoke abatement assumes prime importance. The production of smoke in vast quantities pollutes the atmosphere and when grit is discharged as a constituent of smoke a further nuisance results. The solution to the problem lies in—

(a) Suitable fuels.

(b) Efficient means of combustion and emission control.

(c) Education of personnel in efficient boiler practice.

It should be noted that the presence of industry in proximity to houses does not mean that atmospheric pollution is unavoidable and that the only solution lies in the removal of the houses or the industry. On the contrary the measures outlined above invariably result in greater fuel efficiency and fuel economy.

Observations have been carried out during the year at various points and no case of smoke emission requiring action has been noted. The period of heaviest smoke discharge in the steel and tinplate undertakings is at shift commencement when there is a sudden increase in demand on the boilers.

(b) COLLIERY DUST.

The 1949 Report indicated action taken by your Council to minimise emission of dust in colliery areas has proved successful. No complaints were received during 1950 and the observations of your officers confirm the improvement.

(c) RIVER POLLUTION.

The settlement tanks provided at the requirement of your Council are in use at all major collieries. This normally ensures that washery water is allowed to settle prior to discharge. When washery effluent containing fine coal particles is discharged to the river unfiltered major problems arise, not the least being the subsequent chokage of industrial draw-off points at lower levels.

While these tanks have been provided it is thought that they are not emptied frequently enough at some collieries.

A new filtration plant of modern design has been constructed at the Steer Pit, Gwauncaegurwen, during the year. This plant should ensure a satisfactory effluent.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(1) MILK.

The Regulations now administered by this authority in relation to milk concern its distribution, storage and designation. The present year has confirmed the tendency of the small producer-retailer to sell his product in bulk and retail a designated milk treated by large firms. This is in no small way due to the public demand for a designated product, be it Heat-treated or Tuberculin-Tested.

This practice has raised two problems in the area in respect of which action may have to be taken during the coming year. These are (a) Farm Collection Points and (b) Retail Collection Points. The former usually comprises a small roadside stand and its exposure to sun and the elements make necessary a cover. The latter retail collection point is the place where the vehicle distributing treated milk deposits the retailer's milk for collection by him. There is a growing tendency to deposit milk at places where it is open to contamination and steps are being taken to deal with the practice. The supply of milk in bottles is rapidly replacing the old method of loose milk sale.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) Number of Inspections made of Dairies and Milkshops during the year	...	...	...	...	...	46
(b) Number of Dairies which were internally reconditioned, new floors and channels in cement concrete, additional windows fixed for improving the lighting and ventilation, new stalls and troughs, etc., erected	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c) New Dairies erected	...	...	...	...	...	2
(d) Number of Dairies limewashed on internal surfaces of walls, and interior of roofs cleansed as the result of informal action taken	...	...	...	...	...	5

Samples of graded and ungraded milk have been taken frequently. Particulars of these are given in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

(2) MEAT.

The slaughtering of animals is, under an Order made in 1940, centralised at Swansea and Llandilo. Meat for consumption within the area is delivered by van from these establishments to allocation depots at Clydach and Ystalyfera, local distribution being effected from these depots.

The transport and handling of meat to and at retail establishments has been dealt with during the year. Frequent inspections were made of the vans used for carrying the meat prior to allocation.

The vans while being generally satisfactory need to be supplied with offal bins. Cleaner handling would also result if an additional man were to be employed, thereby obviating the necessity of the driver continually having to enter the vehicle after traversing the road.

(3) BUTCHERS' SHOPS—MEAT PRODUCTS.

The above premises have been found satisfactory upon inspection. All are well equipped and clean. No case has been recorded during the year of illness following consumption of meat products. A number of shops have renewed blocks, rails, hooks and internal fittings now that these articles are in greater supply.

Every opportunity has been taken to inform persons handling meat products of the importance of scrupulous cleanliness.

(4) SALE AND STORAGE OF FOODS (GENERAL).

Improvements have been effected in a number of food premises during 1950. Difficulty is sometimes experienced in that the premises were originally domestic. Extension to provide adequate storage is in these circumstances impracticable and occupiers have been advised to limit their stock to the capacity of their shelf space. The improvements concerned have been effected without recourse to formal action under Section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(5) TRANSPORT AND HANDLING OF FOOD.

Food Byelaws approved by your Council during 1949 came into operation in February, 1950. These powers have been made known to traders when inspections of food premises for general purposes have taken place. The byelaws have enabled your officers to exercise greater control over the general delivery of food. This is often effected by tricycle, cycle, or on foot, and it has been necessary in some cases to issue warnings regarding the mode of delivery.

(6) ICECREAM.

Samples of icecream for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis have been taken, particularly during the summer months. Chemical analysis results have been duly forwarded to the Minister of Food as requested by him. Com-

positional standards have been formulated for this product and at the time of writing are in operation. While these standards will not be enforced by this Authority it is hoped that their imposition will, in focussing the manufacturers' attention upon accurate dispensing, at the same time induce closer attention to those matters affecting bacteriological results.

Street sales of icecream from vans and other vehicles have again received attention. These vehicles may now be dealt with under the Food Byelaws in addition to the Heat Treatment Regulations. This is a welcome additional power as not being "premises," Sections 13 & 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, did not apply to them.

The publication of articles on icecream manufacture in trade journals generally and particularly in the journal of the trade organisation associated with icecream does much to assist the small manufacturer. Some of these smaller manufacturers are, however, of foreign extraction and much of this valuable information, especially when of a technical aspect, is difficult to understand. It is thought that the occasional inclusion in these publications of articles dealing with the fundamentals of sound practice but which are simple in form and language would extend the field of this educative work.

(7) LICENSED PREMISES, CLUBS, ETC.

The survey undertaken during 1949 provided the basis of work during this year. The work shown to be necessary by the survey has been carried out but certain premises still require attention. It is hoped that the owners concerned will comply with the requirements informally notified to them and obviate the necessity for formal action under Section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Ventilational improvements have been effected in certain premises by the installation of extraction fans. The greatest single difficulty still remains, that of glass washing. While an inadequacy of glasses to meet peak demand is sometimes the cause of hasty rinsing, a disinclination to introduce too many glasses into circulation is not infrequently responsible.

(8) UNFIT FOODS.

The following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption :—

Bacon	... 238 lbs.	Potato Pdr. (12ozs.)	73 pkts.
Bean Flour	... 5 lbs.	Pudd'g Mixt. (8ozs.)	3 pkts.
Blanc M'ge P'dr.	40 pkts.	Sweets	... 3½ lbs.
Bisto	... 73 pkts.	Sauces and Pickles	101 jars
Cheese	... 70¾ lbs.	Tins (assorted)	... 212
Chocolates	... 6½ lbs.	Tins (fruit)	... 44
Cornflour	... 4 pkts.	Tins (meat)	... 59
Custard Powder	134 pkts.	Tins (milk)	... 130
Dessert Powder	30 pkts.	Tins (tomatoes)	... 64
Jam	... 26 lbs.	Tomato Soup Pdr.	185 lbs.
Meat (fresh)	... 542 lbs.		

In every case certificates were given to the retailers to ensure replacement of stock.

Disinfection.

This has been the first year of complete operation by the new disinfector described in the Report of 1949. The plant has operated efficiently during this period and bedding, etc., has been returned to householders in 24 hours or less. This fact is important as a too long retention of such articles often causes a difficulty in the household. Every effort is therefore made to return articles as soon as possible.

Particular attention is paid to disinfection of premises following removal to hospital, or death. Bed and immediate personal clothing is removed for disinfection while the room or rooms considered infective are treated with a suitable disinfectant in atomised form.

1—Number of investigations made of Notified Infectious Disease cases	... ..	106
2—Number of premises fumigated or otherwise disinfected	... ..	76

3—Number of cases where clothes were steam disinfected	30
4—(a) Number of cases where bedding was destroyed after Tuberculosis	10
(b) Compensation paid for such bedding under Section 167, Public Health Act, 1936 ...	£36

Householders were provided with disinfectant and disinfecting soap, precautionary measures for preventing spread of infection being fully explained. Special attention was paid to those cases nursed at home. Children of school age were excluded for the appropriate time, where necessary.

Disinfestation.

Numerous calls for assistance have been made upon the Department in relation to this service. They range from infestations of bed bugs to cases where the insect is unknown and specimens have to be sent to a laboratory for identification. One of the latter cases was found to be a type of furniture mite which caused great discomfort before being finally eradicated.

Infestations of Pharoh's Ant in the area have been brought under swift control by the use of a new method involving the poisoning of the colony, treated food being carried to the nest by the ants themselves.

Cockroach infestations have received attention in domestic premises and canteens. Such complaints are dealt with speedily as recent United States investigations indicate that these insects frequently excrete organisms associated with food poisoning. Their presence therefore in food preparing premises is a matter of concern. D.D.T. powders and insecticides, however, are very effective against this insect.

Departmental Distribution of Disinfectants and Insecticides.

Disinfectant (Liquid)	124 bottles
Disinfectant Soap	49 lbs.
Benzyl Benzoate	2 bottles
D.D.T. Liquid	67 bottles
D.D.T. Powder	96 packets
Rat Biscuits	108½ dozen

PART II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE SHOPS ACT, 1950.

In accordance with the Agreement between this Authority and the Glamorgan County Council, the Report annually required is herewith submitted on the administration of the Shops Act, 1950.

1—New Legislation.

The above Act which came into force during the year is an enactment for consolidating previous Shop Law from 1912-1938. The consolidated Acts are re-enacted in their original form.

2—Early Closing

The early closing day varies in the district by reason of traders having exercised their legal right of opting for the alternative day.

The exercise of the above right has resulted in a variation of day within the same township. The community, however, appears to be well served. Particular attention has been paid to ensure that premises open for the sale of exempted goods do not sell articles not included in that Schedule.

3—Closing Hours.

Shops within the area close according to the times set out in the Act and associated Regulations. Regulation 60 A.B. which sets out winter closing hours operated within the appropriate dates.

The hours of closing permitted by the Shops Act, 1950, operate within the area, the local Closing Order of 1915 being invalid, due to incompatibility with the above Act.

In view of the operation of Regulation 60 A.B. your Council resolved to extend closing time for the week preceding Christmas, and to communicate with the County Council regarding their confirmation of the variation.

4—Employment of Young Persons.

The provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, as amended by the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938, are generally observed within the area. There are recorded to date 42 young persons employed in and about shops. The hours of work of these young persons and the conditions of their employment are duly investigated during routine inspections.

No matters affecting young persons and requiring action under the above Act arose during the year. Liaison with the Youth Employment Bureau has proved of much assistance in the administration of these provisions.

5—Infringements.

It has not been necessary during the year to take formal action against persons infringing this Act. Provided that the legal provisions are, of course, fully implemented, such a statement is thought preferable to one involving proceedings, for, particularly where welfare is concerned, it is felt that compliance through informal action is of more lasting benefit than a successful prosecution. Occupiers are urged to instal gas or electric geysers, particularly in large lock-up premises where no domestic facilities are available.

In order to avoid infringements details of general closing hours, winter closing hours and Christmas extensions were published in the local press at appropriate times.

6—Authorised Officers.

Your Senior Sanitary Inspector and first Additional Sanitary Inspector are Authorised Officers under the above Act.

7—General Observations on the Year's Work.

(i) Shopkeepers still state that they have difficulty in obtaining the notices they are required to display. It is felt that the provision for sale of such notices by your Council would be administratively difficult in view of the small sums involved.

(ii) During 1950, 421 inspections were made for matters falling within the Shops Act, 1950.

(iii) The practice of installing fluorescent lighting in shops while commendable if effected throughout is a matter for adverse comment when confined to the sales room only. Photometer tests carried out during the year indicated that there was a great variation between brightly-lit shops and rear storerooms which the staff were constantly entering and leaving. Lighting should not only be adequate but uniform throughout all frequently used rooms.

IEUAN LEWIS,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector and
Shops' Inspector.*

